

June 30, 2021



Dear Bethel,

In preparation for Alberta to enter Stage 3 on July, I met with our Governing Elders Monday night to discuss how we would like to move forward as a church.

While there are several postures that have been essential for us in making decisions during the past year, two key principles come to mind for me this week. First, we must trust the Lord completely. Second, we seek to honor each other through compassion and respect. I say this knowing how exciting this week will be for many of us, but I also want to acknowledge that this transition may feel abrupt. Let us continue to show grace and love to each other as we return to new and familiar ways of fellowship and worship.

We're making a number of changes this week for Sunday worship services and gatherings at the church building, following the guidance provided by the province. These changes will go into effect tomorrow. We want to make sure you know what to expect if you come to worship with us in person.

1. We will no longer ask you to register to attend services on Sundays.
2. We will be operating with normal capacity for worship. Be mindful of each other's space. We'll have additional chairs ready to setup in the back if needed.
3. We will not be asking people to wear masks. Please feel to wear masks if this would help you feel more comfortable.
4. We also have a Bethel Kids Update for in-person children's ministry on Sundays, which will start this July 4. For the first few weeks of Bethel Kids in-person, we are asking parents to pre-register their kids. To register and see details about upcoming plans for children's ministry, visit discoverbethel.com/BethelKids. Also, see the posted update letter for Bethel Kids.

I'm hopeful that as Summer unfolds we will be reminded of the joy in community in Christ. God has called us to be together as one body, his church. While it's impossible to say what awaits us the rest of the year, we can take courage that God is with us and will never forsake us.

This is why Paul gives this challenge to the church he loves:

"...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Eph. 4:1-6)

Please continue to pray for our church as we continue to pray for you. If you have any comments or questions, you're welcome to email our governing elders (governingelders@discoverbethel.com).

May God's grace and peace be with you!

Pastor Cris

On behalf of the Governing Elders